

*Some SCRUPLES, by way of Queries, relating to the
Day of Thanksgiving and Publick Prayers, appointed to be
kept 30th. of November 1699.*

I. **W**HETHER a Day of National Thanksgiving, for received Mercies, and publick Prayers, upon the account of National Calamities, be not a Mungrel Day of Humiliation, and Rejoycing jumbled together?

II. Whether there be any Example in Scripture of such a Day? unless it be that in *Ezra* 3. 12. where it is evident, That the Solemnity was appointed both by the Civil and Ecclesiastick Authority, for Thanksgiving and Joy only; and the Weeping flowed only from the Dispositions, and occasional Reflections, of some of the ancient People, without (yea contrary to) Appointment.

III. Whether any such Precedent is to be found in the Practice of the Church of *Scotland*?

IV. Altho' Prayer and Practice ought to accompany Humiliations & *vice versa*, yet whether ought not Days of occasional Solemn publick Worship to bear a certain and determinate Specification, without huddling together Things of a Heterogeneous Nature? Is not this contrary to the Design of such Solemnities? Doth it not tend to marr and confound the Frame of the Worshippers? To frustrate the Effect of the Solemnity: And so render it neither a Day of Thanksgiving nor of Humiliation?

V. What is the Meaning of Solemn Publick Prayer upon the account of God's Judgement upon the Land, without Fasting? And how is Fasting consistent with a Solemn National Thanksgiving?

VI. Tho', in a Paper of Causes for either Thanksgiving or Humiliation, several Things of different Natures might be mentioned; yet were they ever before crouded into one Proclamation, as the formal Grounds of the Solemnity of one Day?

VII. Since Humiliations and Thanksgivings are of the Nature of Free-will-Offerings; is it not a too niggardly grudging of Time and Worship, to refuse two several Days, when the Causes are of sufficient Importance to require them? (and neither Seed-time nor Harvest calls for so Parsimonious a Saving of Time) And when a separate Day of Humiliation, was expressly Sought, and Applied for, by the *General-Council* of the Trading Company.

VIII. If the Notion of a Day of Publick Prayers (that is neither Humiliation, nor Thanksgiving, but a Twilight between both) came from *Holland*, whether ought this Church to be fond of *Dutch* Customs, or did ever the Church of *Holland* her self, mingle such a Day with a Solemn Thanksgiving appointing, the same to be National?

IX. Who advised the Clerk of the Council to call that *The Address of the Commission of the General Assembly*, which was only made by a very small *Sub-Committee* of that *Commission*? And whether was that *Sub-Committee* instructed, or empowered to join Fasting (under a disguised Name) with a Thanksgiving for the Harvest, and his Majesty's safe Return? Or to make any mention at all of Trade? Or was not Trade thrust into the Address, to shun a distinct Day of Humiliation, for the Mis-carriages and Distress of the Colony of *Caledonia*?

X. Whe

X. Whether a Solemnity compounded of so contrary Ingredients, be not an Innovation, and so beyond the Power of the *Commission*; yea of the *General Assembly* it self, (much more of a Sub-Committee) to introduce, without Consulting the several Presbyteries, by way of transmitted Overture?

XI. How shall any Minister, acting with Candor and Conscience, bewail the frustrating the Endeavours that have been made for advancing the Trade of this Nation, without bewailing, at the same time, his Majesty's Proclamations in the *West-Indies*, as Judgements and Testimonies of God's Displeasure against us? And how shall he Pray that God may yet Countenance and Bless Endeavours for Advancing the Trade of the Nation, and graciously Preserve, Protect and Direct those who are imployed therein, to an happy issue, without Praying at the same time against his Majesty's foresaid Proclamations and the Effects thereof?

XII. Whether such Mixtures and Warpings (as are manifest in this Matter) will not by some be Constructed to be an Abuse of, and Jestings with, Religious Exercises? And considering the present Ferment of the Nation, will not the Contrivers and Managers bear the Censure and Reproach of Jugling and Time-serving.